



Did U Know?

Playing for Pakistan v India at Lucknow in 1951-52, Nazir Mohammed became the first player to be on the field for every ball of a Test match.



TEN Sports

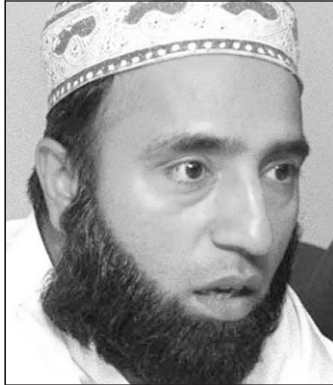
Real Madrid vs Thailand
Live at 4:30 pm

ESPN

England vs South Africa
Second Test, Day Four
Repeat at 5:30 am
Western Union World Football
Repeat at 3:00 pm
Sportscentre Weekend
Sport News
Repeat at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Tennis Masters Series, Montreal
Semifinals
Repeat at 11:00 am
Gillette World Sports Special
Int'l Sports News
Repeat at 4:00 pm
Tennis Masters Series, Montreal
Final
Live at 12:00 am (Monday)



Saeed Anwar
(Pakistan star batsman)
"I don't want to sever all my ties with cricket which has given me a lot of fame and wealth. But the time has come to call it a day."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 19

Tick the correct answers, post to **The Daily Star**. Win attractive prizes.

Competition closes at 8 pm August 15, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

1. How many runs did Bangladesh score in the first innings of the 2nd Test against Australia?	301	289	295
2. Who became Asian Youth Cup cricket champions?	Malaysia Bangladesh Nepal		
3. Who won the Pepsi handball title?	Chittagong Narsingdi Bandarban		
4. Who clinched the CONCACAF Gold Cup?	Brazil USA Mexico		
5. How many Test tons has Steve			

Name

Class..... Roll No.....

School Address

Phone: (if any)

Div II soccer

UNB, Dhaka

Jatrabari Krira Chakra blanked Muslim Institute 2-0 in the Shahjalal Bank Metropolis Second Division Football League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. Anis and Yasin scored for the winners.

The day's other match between City Club and Shantinagar Club ended in a one-all draw. Ismail scored for Shantinagar while Edayet for City Club.

'A huge learning curve'



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore feels that his young team's baptism of fire in Australia could be the stepping stone for a better showing in the coming away series against Pakistan.

The former Australian Test player expressed this optimism at the Zia International Airport on return from down under after a grueling 47-day tour.

"Don't forget that the opposition is not as good as Australia," said Whatmore at a crowded media briefing at the VIP lounge.

Whatmore and his boys will get only nine days before flying to Pakistan where the Tigers will play three Tests and five one-day internationals.

While talking about his first assignment, the high profile coach who took over the demanding job in September, said that it was a mixed bag for him.

Whatmore set a target of individual improvement at the onset of the Australia tour and he said that his boys did not let him down.

"There were some players who did improve and there were some who probably did not improve as much as we had hoped. It was a very tough tour. There is no question about the opposition and how good they are. "We won a little bit of respect from the opposition team and the spectators all over Australia. And it was a huge learning curve," observed the Australian think-tank.

Bangladesh's first-ever series against the mighty Australians marked a predictable end with the visitors losing the two Tests and three one-dayers.

But he said that he does not want to be haunted by the defeat-syndrome and warned his players of not losing too much confidence because they were not always going to play the number one team in the world.

"If we can watch that (the

Australia tour), be careful a bit and move to another competition against Pakistan, we got a chance," said Whatmore.

When asked what are the areas he needs to give a long look at, Whatmore said that two things irritated him most while in Australia.

"There were a few things that were really not very good. Particularly, I was not happy with drop catches and losing wickets at the wrong time. So, those are the areas we need to really work on during the next nine days before we face Pakistan," he said.

While talking about individual performance Whatmore said that two players really impressed him.

"Hannan Sarker has showed a lot of courage and he also showed that he wanted to improve as a player. Besides, Mashrafe bin Mortuza also bowled

very well. He impressed everyone," said an otherwise praise-shy Whatmore.

Opener Hannan was a consistent performer in the Test series where the right-hander scored a brilliant 78 in the second Test. Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza on the other hand earned the accolades from the Australian media for his pace and precision.

When asked to describe how he summed up the Australia tour, Whatmore said that except for the second one-day match at Cairns his boys did reasonably well.

"The second one-day game was not at all good. Again not because we had expected to win but after losing the first wicket in the 15th over, you would expect the team to bat for 50 overs. But we were bowled out in the 46th over. But the

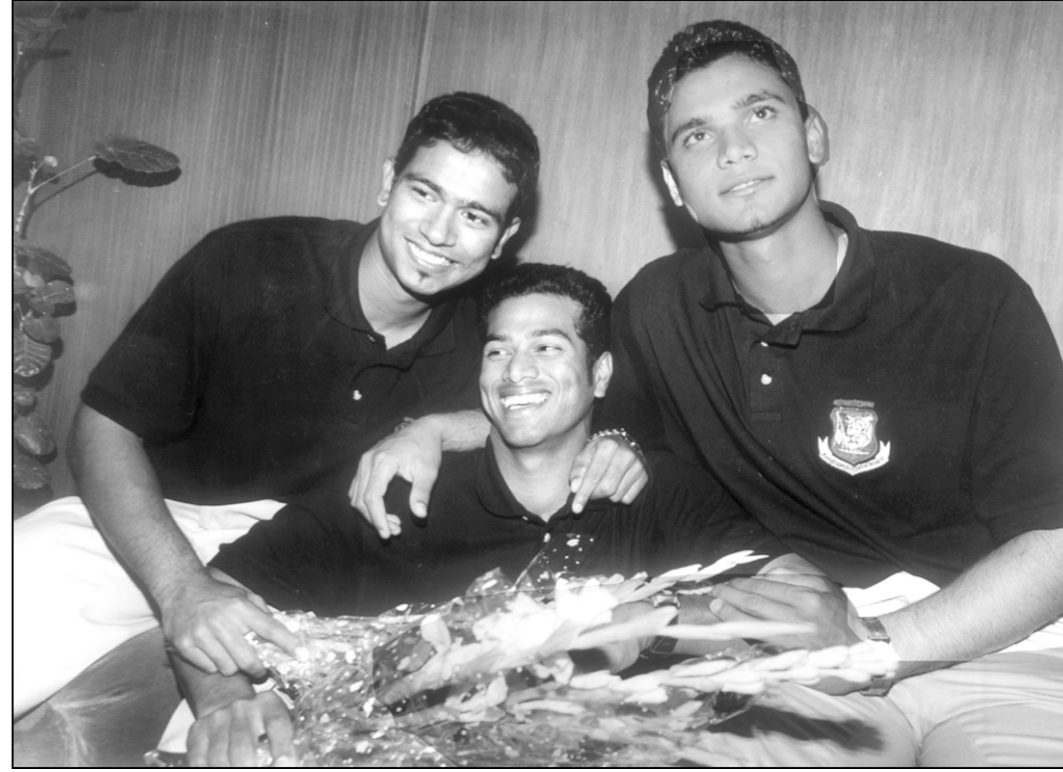
last game was again a little bit better I thought. There weren't many mistakes they made. I think the last game was more reflective of the quality of the opposition that we had faced. 250 plus was a big score on that surface," said the Bangladesh coach.

Regarding his non-performing captain Khaled Mahmud, who had miserably failed to deliver either with the bat or ball, Whatmore said that it was a very difficult role for him. Playing as a captain of the country was not an easy job.

"I thought he tried very hard. He has got a lot of good qualities as a captain and most importantly he knows he needs to improve a lot in bowling and batting," said the caring coach.



The members of the Bangladesh cricket team at the Zia International Airport on their return from Australia yesterday.



THE STAR TRIO: (L-R) Hannan Sarker, Alok Kapali and Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza, the only three cricketers who could make some impact on Bangladesh's tour of Australia, were found relatively jovial at the ZIA.

Sonali Bank post 4th win

SPORTS REPORTER

Sonali Bank registered their fourth win in the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League when they came from behind to beat Dhaka Railway 2-1 in yesterday's lone match at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium.

Trailing the first half 0-1, the bankers staged a brilliant rally in the second session and scored two goals to finish the match with full three points.

Indian recruit Guruvinder Singh equalised the margin from a short-corner in the 45th minute while his compatriot Anil Ekka scored the winner in the 58th minute.

Earlier, Railway took the lead when Afiaz Ali scored from a short-corner in the 30th minute. But it did not last long after Sonali Bank surged ahead. They now have 12 points from six matches.

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Pak-bound Tigers' camp from Aug 12



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket team's camp for the forthcoming tour of Pakistan will begin in the capital from August 12.

And a final list of the players to join the camp would be disclosed today.

"I'm not very sure about the number of cricketers. There were some in the reserve list plus 17 who toured Australia. Besides, one or two might be called from the under-23 squad that toured Sri Lanka recently," BCB advisor and Cricket Committee chairman Mahbubul Anam revealed yesterday.

He also told The Daily Star Sport that a new selection committee would be announced on Sunday.

The Board is presently running without a proper selection committee since the three-men panel led by Aliul Islam was dissolved in June.

Anam said that the 15-man squad for Pakistan would be named by August 14.

The team is scheduled to fly out to Pakistan on August 16 night to play three Tests and five one-day international against Rashid Latif and company.

He also informed that the Board has decided to allow players to take their families but at their own expense.

"The family trip will only apply for the first phase in Karachi. They will have to send back their families before the second Test in Peshawar," Anam added.

Meanwhile, coach Dav Whatmore hinted that the composi-

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India U-19s might not tour Pakistan



CRICINFO, undated

The chances of cricketing ties resuming between India and Pakistan has suffered another setback, with reports that the Indian government is likely to refuse permission for an under-19 team to tour Pakistan.

A website quoted a senior sports ministry official as saying: "We don't see the prevailing conditions as ideal. We have to adopt a wait-and-see approach."

The report says that the Indian government has no objection to a team from the National Cricket Academy touring Sri Lanka to play in a triangular tournament where the third team will be Pakistan but is opposed to the under-19 team

touring Pakistan for a similar tournament.

"The matter is pending with the home and foreign affairs ministries," Vikram Verma, the union sports minister, told the website in an exclusive interview.

"After all, it is much more than just a sporting matter. There are serious issues such as security. Once we hear from the two ministries, we will let the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) know."

Sources within the government, however, believe that the tour will almost certainly be called off.

If the tour does get cancelled, it will be a personal setback for Jagmohan Dalmiya, the BCCI president.

Dalmiya and his Pakistani counterpart Tahir Zia had met in Dubai and London earlier this year in an attempt to revive India-

Pakistan ties. Dalmiya had also met Verma and Vijay Goel, the union minister of state for sports, in New Delhi last week to get the government's go-ahead.

"We were so confident," said a BCCI official. "The board chief was personally assured by the Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh that a letter to the effect that the Indian senior team could tour Pakistan next February would be issued soon."

If the Indian team is refused permission, it will jeopardise the schedule of junior cricket tours between the three Asian countries which was decided by the Asian Cricket Council last month.

According to the report, that initiative had listed three tournam-

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Ansars karate champs

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Ansars emerged champions in the 17th national karate competition securing nine gold, five silver and five bronze medals.

Bangladesh Army became runners-up collecting six gold and four silver while Bangladesh Titas finished third with three gold, four silver and five bronze medals.

Bangladesh Karate Federation president Major General (ret'd) Jiban Kanai Das distributed prizes on the closing day

Finding it Wright

CRICINFO, Bangalore

India coach John Wright has said that working with a pool of 36 players in two pre-season camps will give him and the selectors a good idea of which players can make the transition to the international level.

Wright arrived in Bangalore on Friday with Gregory King, the newly appointed trainer, ahead of the conditioning camp which will be held over August 14-26.

The Times of India quoted Wright as saying: "Managing 36 players could be a bit difficult but the main idea is to get more players used to the training methods of King."

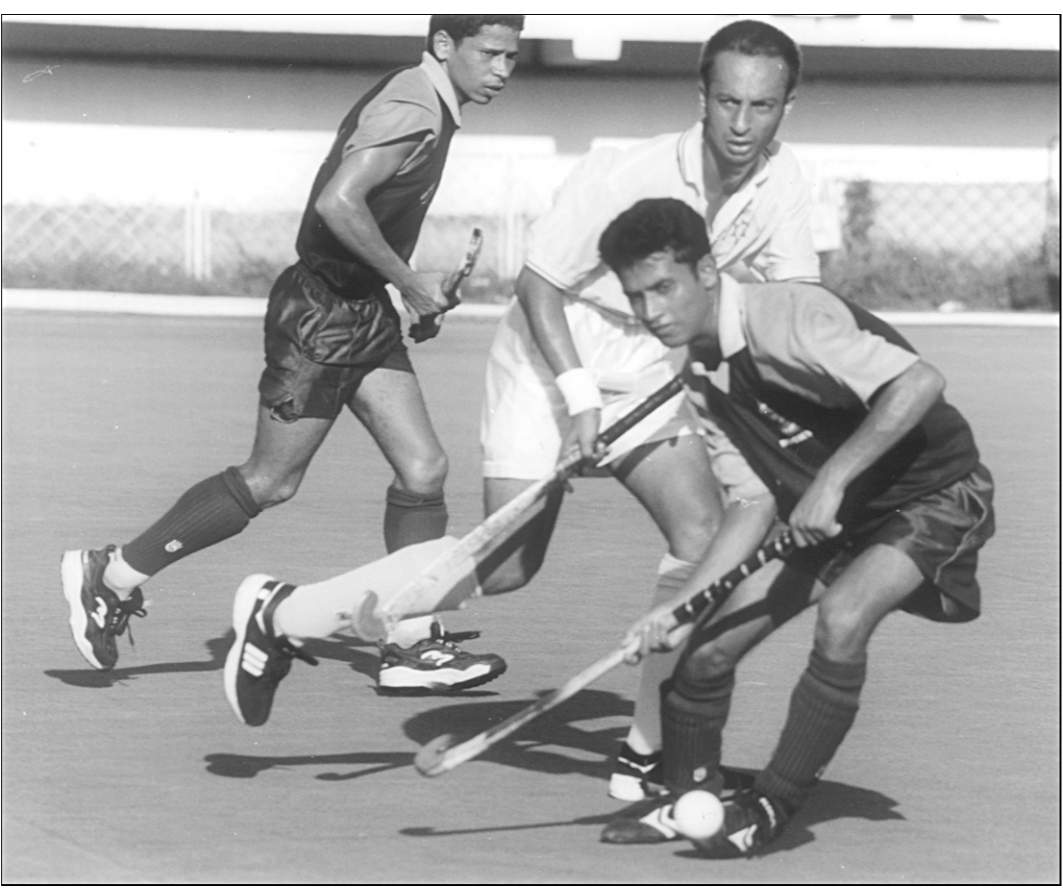
"It's the beginning of the season and as it progresses the number of players will come down. Having more players will also provide a wider pool of talent. It will give the selectors and myself a good indication of who's keen on working harder."

When asked about the absence of Javagal Srinath, who pulled out from the camp due to an injury in his right knee, Wright said that he hadn't spoken to him yet.

"Sri is an experienced professional. He is big enough to make up his mind. But at the end of the day we need to talk to him."

Wright also spoke about the areas where the team needed to improve. "There are certain areas like the top of the order, fast bowling and fielding... where we need more competition from players."

The list of 36 probables includes four openers apart from Virender Sehwag and Sanjay Bangar, who opened the innings in India's last Test, but one name missing from the line-up was Sadagoppan Ramesh. Ramesh last played for India in 2001 before being forced out with an injury.



Action from the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League encounter between Sonali Bank and Dhaka Railway at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.



I'M SO SLEEPY: Real Madrid's Roberto Carlos (L) jokes with his superstar teammate Luis Figo during a press conference in Bangkok yesterday.

Real Thai treat



AFP/REUTERS, Bangkok

Some 30,000 Thai fans turned out Saturday to watch Spanish giants Real Madrid train at Bangkok's Rajamangala stadium ahead of their friendly against the Thai national side.

The all-star team flew in from Hong Kong where they posted a handy 4-2 victory over a Hong Kong XI.

If they prevail over the Thai side it will make for a four-nil clean sweep on their tour of Asia, which has also taken in China and Japan.

Brazilian defender Roberto Carlos said that he hoped the match, part of a campaign by the Spanish team to raise its profile in Asia, would be a winner with Thai fans who have already made it a sell-out affair.

"I hope Thai fans will enjoy and be impressed by the match tomor-

row," he told a press conference ahead of Sunday's game at the 50,000-seat Rajamangala stadium.

Fellow superstar Luis Figo said the Asian tour had been a learning experience for the players.

"We had new experiences, we learnt about new cultures... and new football tactics," he said. "Asian players have a different style to the Europeans so it was useful for us to bring these tactics to improve our game."

Carlos insisted the players were happy to be joined by the newly-signed David Beckham, England captain and football's pin-up boy.

"Beckham is one of the world's best players. We are glad he's joining us and everybody in the team is happy to play with him," he said.

On their arrival in Bangkok, the players were greeted by 600 screaming fans when they reached their hotel.

Real Madrid and their new signing David Beckham almost disappeared under a pile of flower garlands as enthusiastic Thai officials greeted him, while former world footballer of the year Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane and Figo each

received a couple of orchid necklaces each.

Security for the visit was increased after a bomb attack on the JW Marriott Hotel in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta on Tuesday. Two bodyguards are accompanying each player, while Beckham, Ronaldo, Zidane and Figo will get several security officers each.

Police said a total of 1,200 officers will be deployed to ensure the 37-hour visit goes off without a hitch.

They said they were anxious to avoid a glitch which allowed a fan to invade the pitch during last month's tour by English Premier League team Liverpool.

"I can speak Spanish so I've come to welcome them," a teenage girl said, as Beckham walked past waving and Ronaldo grinned at the fans.

"I like Luis Figo because he's handsome and a good player."

One fan said he felt sorry for the more established Real Madrid players because Beckham was drawing so much publicity.

"Thai women really love Beckham so much," said 11-year-old Aldecho Dari.